THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) A statement is enclosed. [*See* below].

(b) and (c) The reasons for above positions being vacant include posts being kept in abeyance due to review of the performance, limited operations of the Company, delay in joining by selected candidate etc. Appointments in Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd. and Bengal Immunity Ltd. are likely to be made shortly. In respect of remaining companies arrangements have been made to ensure that day to day functioning do not suffer.

Statement

Out of fifteen vacant posts mentioned in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 70 answered on 20-4-1987, nine posts have since been filled up. The remaining six enterprises where posts of Chief Executives are still vacant are as follows:

1. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.
2. Scooters India Ltd.
3. Engineering Projects India Ltd.
4. Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd.
5. Bengal Immunity Ltd.
6. Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Canadian assistance in the field of telecommunications

1904. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canadian assistance has been sought in the field of telecommunications; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding between M/s. Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd., Madras and M/s. Andover of Canada for manufacture of a product "Communicator" has been signed.

Amendment of the law relating to telephone tapping

1905. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Karnataka case of telephone tapping came to light;

(b) by when Government propose to bring forward amendment of the law on the subject, as earlier promised in Parliament; and

(c) what are the outlines of the proposed amendment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The matter came to the notice of Government when a report in this regard appeared on 10-7-1988 in the Indian Express.

(b) and (c) The provisions of Indian Telegraph Act 1885 in this regard are being reviewed. No proposals have yet been finalised.

Liquidation of dues against state electricity boards

1906. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested that an action plan may be prepared and carried out to liquidate the outstanding dues of National Thermal Power Corporation towards the State Electricity Boards; and